

Kathleen Hebbeler, Ph.D.

Kathleen Hebbeler is a Program Manager at SRI International with over 30 years of experience in research and evaluation of education, health, and social programs for children and adolescents. She has extensive experience in longitudinal research and recently completed her sixth longitudinal study. Dr. Hebbeler currently directs the Early Childhood Outcomes Center, a 10-year project that provides national leadership around issues related to the development of state-level outcomes measurement systems for programs serving young children with disabilities and their families. As part of this work, she is directing a research study to examine the validity of the child outcome data being collected through a team rating process. She also directed the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS), which examined services and outcomes for a nationally representative sample of more than 3,300 infants and toddlers with disabilities in early intervention programs around the United States. Dr. Hebbeler has conducted numerous evaluations for federal and state agencies and private foundations. She also has conducted training in evaluation design for a variety of audiences, with a special focus on identification and measurement of child and family outcomes. Prior to joining SRI in 1992, Dr. Hebbeler worked for the Office of Special Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of Directors of Special Education, and the Montgomery County (MD) Public Schools.

Dr. Hebbeler is a nationally recognized expert on large-scale studies of children with disabilities, serving as advisor to national studies, such as the evaluation of Early Head Start and the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, to help create designs that adequately address issues unique to this population (e.g., oversampling and the measurement of disability). As a member of the National Research Council's Committee on Developmental Outcomes and Assessment for Young Children, she was a contributing author to the 2008 report *Early Childhood Assessment: Why, What and How?* Dr. Hebbeler has authored numerous papers and presented at many national meetings in the areas of early childhood development, general and special education, community collaboration, and children's health. She also served as a major author of a guidebook for community organizations on conducting evaluations. Dr. Hebbeler earned her Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Cornell University.